

What is claimed is:

1. An information recording medium having at least two information layers, comprising:

5 a first information layer including a first recording layer that generates a reversible phase change between the crystalline phase and the amorphous phase by optical means or electrical means; and

a second information layer including a second  
10 recording layer that generates a reversible phase change between the crystalline phase and the amorphous phase by optical means or electrical means;

wherein the first recording layer contains Ge, Te and Bi, and

15 the second recording layer contains Sb and at least one element M1 selected from a group consisting of V, Mn, Ga, Ge, Se, Ag, In, Sn, Te, Pb, Bi and Au.

2. The information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the first recording layer further  
20 contains Sb.

3. The information recording medium according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first recording layer further contains Sn.

4. The information recording medium according to  
25 any one of claims 1-3, wherein the first recording layer contains Bi at 1.0 atom % or more.

5. The information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the first recording layer is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Ge}_a\text{Bi}_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  
30  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

6. The information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the first recording layer is represented by a composition formula  $(\text{Ge-M2})_a\text{Bi}_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

7. The information recording medium according to claim 2, wherein the first recording layer is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Ge}_a(\text{Bi-Sb})_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

8. The information recording medium according to claim 2, wherein the first recording layer is represented by a composition formula  $(\text{Ge-M2})_a(\text{Bi-Sb})_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

9. An information recording medium having at least two information layers, comprising:

a first information layer including a first recording layer that generates a reversible phase change between the crystalline phase and the amorphous phase by optical means or electrical means; and

a second information layer including a second recording layer that generates a reversible phase change between the crystalline phase and the amorphous phase by optical means or electrical means;

wherein the first recording layer contains Ge, Te and Sb, and

the second recording layer contains Sb and at least one element M1 selected from a group consisting of V, Mn, Ga, Ge, Se, Ag, In, Sn, Te, Pb, Bi and Au.

10. The information recording medium according to

claim 9, wherein the first recording layer is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Ge}_a\text{Sb}_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

11. The information recording medium according to claim 9, wherein the first recording layer is represented by a composition formula  $(\text{Ge-M2})_a\text{Sb}_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

12. The information recording medium according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein the second recording layer is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Sb}_x\text{Ml}_{100-x}$ , where  $50 \leq x \leq 95$  atom %.

13. The information recording medium according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein the second recording layer is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Sb}_y\text{Ml}_{100-y}$ , where  $0 < y \leq 20$  atom %.

14. The information recording medium according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein the second recording layer is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Ge}_a(\text{Bi-Sb})_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

15. The information recording medium according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein the second recording layer is represented by a composition formula  $(\text{Ge-M2})_a(\text{Bi-Sb})_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

16. An information recording medium having at least two information layers, comprising:

a first information layer including a first recording layer that generates a reversible phase change

between the crystalline phase and the amorphous phase by optical means or electrical means; and

a second information layer including a second recording layer that generates a reversible phase change  
5 between the crystalline phase and the amorphous phase by optical means or electrical means;

wherein both the first recording layer and the second recording layer contain Ge, Te and Bi.

17. The information recording medium according to  
10 claim 16, wherein at least one of the first recording layer and the second recording layer contains Bi at 1.0 atom % or more.

18. The information recording medium according to claim 16, wherein at least one of the first recording  
15 layer and the second recording layer is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Ge}_a\text{Bi}_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

19. The information recording medium according to claim 16, wherein at least one of the first recording  
20 layer and the second recording layer is represented by a composition formula  $(\text{Ge-M2})_a\text{Bi}_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

20. The information recording medium according to  
25 any one of claims 1-19, further comprising an interface layer that is provided adjacent to a surface of at least one of the first recording layer and the second recording layer, wherein the interface layer contains at least one composition selected from a group consisting of  $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{SnO}_2$ ,  
30  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{HfO}_2$ ,  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{Zr-N}$ ,

Hf-N, Nb-N, Ta-N, Si-N, Cr-N, Ge-N, Al-N, Ge-Si-N, Ge-Cr-N, YF<sub>3</sub>, LaF<sub>3</sub>, CeF<sub>3</sub>, GdF<sub>3</sub>, DyF<sub>3</sub>, ErF<sub>3</sub>, YbF<sub>3</sub>, C and ZnS.

21. The information recording medium according to any one of claims 1-20, wherein the first information  
5 layer includes at least a first incident side dielectric layer, a first incident side interface layer, a first recording layer, a first counterincident side interface layer, a first reflection layer and a transmittance adjustment layer in this order.

10 22. The information recording medium according to any one of claims 1-21, wherein the second information layer includes at least a second incident side dielectric layer, a second incident side interface layer, a second recording layer, a second counterincident side interface  
15 layer, a second counterincident side dielectric layer and a second reflection layer in this order.

23. The information recording medium according to any one of claims 1-22, wherein the first information layer is disposed at the optical means side with respect  
20 to the second information layer.

24. The information recording medium according to any one of claims 1-23, wherein thickness of the first recording layer is 9 nm or less.

25 25. The information recording medium according to any one of claims 1-24, wherein thickness of the second recording layer is between 6 and 15 nm.

26. A method for producing an information recording medium having at least two information layers on a substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

30 forming a first recording layer that generates a

phase change; and

forming a second recording layer that generates a phase change;

wherein a sputtering target containing Ge, Te and Bi  
5 is used in the first recording layer forming step; and

a sputtering target containing Sb and at least one element M1 selected from a group consisting of V, Mn, Ga, Ge, Se, Ag, In, Sn, Pb, Te, Bi and Au is used in the second recording layer forming step.

10 27. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 26, wherein the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step further contains Sb.

28. The method for producing an information  
15 recording medium according to claim 26 or 27, wherein the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step further contains Sn.

29. The method for producing an information recording medium according to any one of claims 26-28,  
20 wherein a sputtering target containing Bi at 0.5 atom % or more is used in the first recording layer forming step.

30. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 26, wherein the first recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target  
25 that is used in the first recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Ge}_a\text{Bi}_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

31. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 26, wherein the first  
30 recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target

that is used in the first recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula  $(\text{Ge-M2})_a\text{Bi}_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

5           32. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 27, wherein the first recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Ge}_a(\text{Bi-Sb})_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ ,  
10       where  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

          33. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 27, wherein the first recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step is  
15       represented by a composition formula  $(\text{Ge-M2})_a(\text{Bi-Sb})_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ ).

          34. A method for producing an information recording medium that has at least two information layers, the  
20       method comprising the steps of:

          forming a first recording layer that generates a phase change; and

          forming a second recording layer that generates a phase change;

25       wherein a sputtering target containing Ge, Te and Sb is used in the first recording layer forming step; and

          a sputtering target containing Sb and at least one element M1 selected from a group consisting of V, Mn, Ga, Ge, Se, Ag, In, Sn, Pb, Te, Bi and Au is used in the  
30       second recording layer forming step.

35. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 34, wherein the first recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Ge}_a\text{Sb}_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

36. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 34, wherein the first recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula  $(\text{Ge-M2})_a\text{Sb}_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

37. The method for producing an information recording medium according to any one of claims 26-36, wherein the second recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the second recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Sb}_x\text{Ml}_{100-x}$ , where  $50 \leq x \leq 95$  atom %.

38. The method for producing an information recording medium according to any one of claims 26-36, wherein the second recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the second recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Sb}_y\text{Ml}_{100-y}$ , where  $0 < y \leq 20$  atom %.

39. The method for producing an information recording medium according to any one of claims 26-36, wherein the second recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the second recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula



$\text{Ge}_a(\text{Bi-Sb})_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

40. The method for producing an information recording medium according to any one of claims 26-36, wherein the second recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the second recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula  $(\text{Ge-M2})_a(\text{Bi-Sb})_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

41. A method for producing an information recording medium that has at least two information layers, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a first recording layer that generates a phase change; and

forming a second recording layer that generates a phase change;

wherein a sputtering target containing Ge, Te and Bi is used in both the first recording layer forming step and the second recording layer forming step.

42. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 41, wherein a sputtering target containing Bi at 0.5 atom % or more is used in the second recording layer forming step.

43. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 41, wherein the second recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the second recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula  $\text{Ge}_a\text{Bi}_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ , where  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .

44. The method for producing an information

recording medium according to claim 41, wherein the second recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the second recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula  $(\text{Ge-M2})_a\text{Bi}_b\text{Te}_{3+a}$ ,

- 5 where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and  $0 < a \leq 60$  and  $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$ .